

Remarks

Claim 11 has been rewritten to include the features of claims 12 and 14, which have been cancelled. Other minor clarifying amendments have also been made.

The rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 is moot in view of the claim amendments. Applicants also respectfully note that claim 7 depends from claim 6, where the phrase "the information field" finds support.

As amended, claims 1, 11, 32, and 43 involve a protocol comprising an operation field. The operation field identifies a task to be performed by means of the information relating to operation of the vehicle. Claims 31 and 39 involve a protocol comprising an ID field. The ID field identifies a function, which is assigned to the information relating to operation of the vehicle. The protocols employed by Kikkawa do not include such an operation field or such an ID field. Instead, as expressed in paragraph [0028], the headers merely allows the destination node to determine whether the data body includes data required for the node or what type of data the body includes. The headers do not identify a task or a function. Thus, the rejection of claims 1 – 9, 11 – 22, and 24 – 48 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of US 2002/003781 to Kikkawa should be withdrawn.

Boesinger is cited only with respect to features of dependent claims 10 and 23 and does not compensate for the shortcomings identified. Thus, the rejection of claims 10 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Kikkawa and US 2002/0046309 to Boesinger should be withdrawn.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees filed, asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account 14-1437. Please credit any excess fees to such account.

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